

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:ARIMAS:BA
APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES
EB/AN:RABROWN
ARA/ECP:DTAHER
CAB:DLITTON
ARA/ECA:DVANTREECK
-----040745Z 048039 /15
R 032211Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 692

1. JANUARY 31 DATE WAS INTENDED TO MARK DEGREE OF URGENCY WHICH WE PERCEIVE IS WARRANTED IN SCHEDULING INTERNAL WASHINGTON DELIBERATIONS TO CONSIDER OUR OPTIONS RE ARGENTINA. NO IMMINENT RETALIATORY ACTION WAS IMPLIED BY MENTION OF THIS DATE.
 2. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES AMBASSADOR'S AND EMBASSY STAFF'S EFFORTS IN MAKING KNOWN OUR AVIATION CONCERNS TO HIGH LEVEL ARGENTINE OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, REPORTS WE HAVE RE-
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CEIVED FROM BRANIFF IN PAST FEW DAYS, IF CONFIRMED, SUGGEST THAT ARGENTINES ARE CLOSING DOOR TO POSSIBILITY OF FOREBEARING FROM UNILATERAL ACTION. ACCORDING BRANIFF, LARGHI HAS CONFIRMED THAT HE CANNOT AVOID APPLYING QUOTA RESTRICTIONS ON BRANIFF. IMPLICATION IS THAT THIS CONFIRMATION FOLLOWED LARGHI'S PROMISE, AS REPORTED PARA 1 REFTTEL, TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF USING JANUARY 1976 TALKS

AS BASIS FOR POSTPONING APPLICATION OF QUOTAS. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY EMBASSY REPORT WHETHER LARGHI HAS CLOSED DOOR SINCE REFTEL REPORT. ALSO, BRANIFF REPORTS

THAT PELLEGRINI OF AEROLINIAN HAS ADVISED BRANIFF THAT IT FULLY SUPPORTS DGTA ACTIONS, I.E., IT IS NOT PREPARED TO EXERCISE A MODERATING INFLUENCE.

3. IF FOREGOING REPORTS ARE CORRECT, DEPARTMENT SEES NO ALTERNATIVE BUT FOR CAB TO PROCEED WITH A SHOW CAUSE ORDER TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT CONFRONTATION IS INEVITABLE UNLESS ARGENTINES PREPARED BACK OFF. SUCH ACTION COULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIGH LEVEL EMBASSY APPROACH TO GOA URGING THAT DGTA WITHHOLD TAKING UNILATERAL ACTIONS IN ORDER AVOID CONFRONTATION. HOPEFULLY, SUCH TACTICS WOULD IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION, WHICH NOW LOOKS VERY DIM BECAUSE OF APPARENT DGTA DETERMINATION TO FORCE US TO BARGAINING TABLE BY TAKING THINGS AWAY WITHOUT ANY COMPENSATING US ACTION. EMBASSY, AT ITS DISCRETION, MAY ALSO COMMUNICATE INFORMALLY TO AEROLINEAS ITS CONCERNS AND CONFIRM THAT ARGENTINE AIRLINE IS AWARE OF IMPLICATIONS THAT ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS COULD HAVE ON ITS OPERATIONS.

4. AS REQUESTED PARA 1 REFTEL, FOLLOWING EXERPTS FROM ATA SUMMARY ARE SUBMITTED: (CONCLUDING EXCHANGE BETWEEN US AND ARGENTINA CHAIRMEN DURING NINTH (FINAL) MEETING ON MARCH 1, 1976.)

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QUOTE BRIGADIER GONZALEZ ACKNOWLEDGED MR. STYLES' REMARKS CONCERNING PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT ARISE IN THE INTERVENING TIME AND HE AGREED THAT THE TWO SIDES SHOULD AVOID ACTS WHICH WOULD BE DISRUPTIVE TO RELATIONS. BUT, HE WARNED, HE COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY ACTION WHICH WAS IN CONTRADICTION OF EXISTING LEGISLATION. MR. STYLES REPLIED, NOR CAN WE, BUT WE SHOULD AVOID DISRUPTIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT FUTURE TALKS. HE ADDED, IN TERMS OF THINGS WHICH ARE NOW PENDING, IF EITHER OF US FORESEES PROBLEMS I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DISCUSS THEM NOW RATHER THAN HAVE THEM BECOME UNPLEASANT SURPRISES.

QUOTE BRIGADIER GONZALEZ REPLIED, WE AWAIT THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS.

QUOTE MR. STYLES RESPONDED, I TAKE IT YOU DO NOT FORESEE ANY UNPLEASANT SURPRISES. BRIGADIER GONZALEZ SAID HE DID NOT THINK EITHER SIDE DID. HE DID NOT EXPECT TO GIVE THE US ANY UNPLEASANT SURPRISES BECAUSE HE DID WANT THE TALKS

TO RESUME, HE SAID. UNQUOTE

5. WE BELIEVE THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 1976 TALKS,
COMMITMENT TO AVOID "UNPLEASANT SURPRISES" WOULD PRECLUDE

IMPOSITION OF BRANIFF QUOTAS, WHICH WERE NOT ENFORCED AT
THAT TIME. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE REFERENCE IN ATA
MINUTES TO ARGENTINE REJECTION OF ANY "...ACTION WHICH
WAS IN CONTRADICTION OF EXISTING LEGISLATION...", WE
BELIEVE THAT EMBASSY'S USE OF THESE MINUTES TO PRESS
QUOTA ISSUE WITH ARGENTINES WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE024916
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARIMAS:BA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770040-0381
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770275/aaaacomj.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0fbc32cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BUENOS AIRES 692
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3414630
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS
TAGS: EAIR, AR
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0fbc32cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009